

LHS Band Parents Association General Meeting

January 12, 2025

Meeting started at 4:01

Present: JoMarie VanWell, Lori Blom, Cullan Winter, Michelle Wigg, Katie Zeeb, Todd Marlette, Therese Marlette, Mary Ann Sherman, Sonia Ohling, Monte Johanning, Stephanie Gongopoulos, Becky Brost, Alicia Peterson, Carmyn Berg, Rich Allen, Sheena Lewis, Dan Carlson, Drew Balta, Astrid Potter, Elli Nyberg

Secretary's Report by Rachelle Broveleit

- Motion to approve: Elli Nyberg
- Second: Sheena Lewis
- Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer's Report by Stephanie Gongopoulos

- We have collected 115% of budget.
- The school is allowing us to defer the payment to them until 6/30/25 unless needed sooner. We will gain \$9000 in additional interest during that time.
- We have approximately \$66,000 in checking and \$534,000 in the Vanguard Money Market Account. We moved another \$100,000 to the money market account in December.
- Outstanding checks are about \$13,700 currently.
- Winter guard and jazz band season expenses are starting.
- We discussed payments made since November meeting.
- Our 990 is due March 15. Stephanie has been gathering information for the accountants.
- We paid taxes to IRS for the Car Raffle in November. We are working with Shawn Blom to file W-2G and 945 by 1/31/25.
- We paid sales taxes on marching band essentials and merchandise sales along with use tax on musical rights and show design. Total was \$1598.01.
- 1099s are due January 31. Stephanie has all the W-9s.
- We voted in November to put D&O Insurance into effect. The policy is from Trellis and is \$1181 per year.
- Shawn Blom has called the IRS about the penalty we incurred from not filing an extension for our 990 in 2021. We are writing another letter to the IRS to attempt to get the penalty and interest dropped. It is currently \$2403.41.

President's Report by Elli Nyberg

- We made it!
- See attached President's Report
- Will start budget in March or sooner. We have a goal to get things done earlier.
- We received 20 satisfaction surveys back after Elli sent them out.

Guard Report by Sheena Lewis

- Winter guard started practice. They learned choreography over winter break. They have 22 members.
- They will be competing in the Northstar Circuit in Minneapolis now.
- They got new shoes for Macy's. They were helpful and are in the loft now. The 2024 fall costumes are at Sheena's house right now.

Roadies Report by Monte Johanning and Todd Marlette

- Everything is put away and ready for next year.
- There is maintenance to get done on the semi. Air brakes are leaking. They are going to build steps for the side door.
- Briefly discussed budget for next year's props.

Chaperones Report by MaryAnn Sherman

- Cullan Winter and Therese Marlette are new co-leads for next year.
- Uniforms are cleaned and back.
- Talked about plan for old uniforms. ?Sell/fundraising/keep
- The school allotted \$8000 to buy additional uniforms next year.
- We may decide to tailor some of the bigger uniforms that were ordered to smaller sizes.

Fundraising Report by Lori Blom

- Carmyn -
 - Dine with the band - 1/21 - Ode to Food and Drink. Owner Bob Kramer has been very generous with support. 2/18 - Trio
 - Work shifts - Angie Hockey - Please sign up. Sanford Premier Center shifts have changed some. There has been a change in dress code. They need some sort of uniform shirt, which will be the 2024 show shirt for now. Carmyn is working with Becky and Alicia on new options for shirts. We will likely purchase some sort of shirt to start off.
- Rich Allen -

- Car Raffle - getting the ball rolling for this year. Talked about a trip instead of car. They will discuss with fundraising group.
- Katie Zeeb -
 - We were asked to take care of ticketing at concerts.
- Yearbooks - sales due by 1/15/25. 110 sales now. We will send another email.
- Fundraising committee will get together to plan for next year.
- Thank you notes were written by kids. They were well received.
- Chicken dinner - Auction went well. It was easier online and made more money. We made \$14,000. We will start earlier for next year with donations.

Communications Report by Erin Johanning

Video - Ben Schumacher - no update

Database - Dave Herbst - no update

Web/Social Media/Marketing - Erin Johanning

- Completed Yearbook page web update, graphics for Dine with the Band events
- Posted Dine with the Band information in December and January.
- Facebook
 - 3.2M views
 - 739K reach
 - 152K content interactions
 - 1900 new followers
- Instagram
 - 497K views
 - 55K reach
 - 43K content interactions
 - 472 new followers

- Erin's capacity is reduced due to work commitments.
- Need to update 24-25 calendar for groups like winter guard, percussion, and any other band-related happenings
- Need to resume sponsor thank you posts now that holidays are over
- Some web page updates are needed.

Booster's Report by Lori Blom - none

Director's Report by Dan Carlson and Drew Balta

- New idea - since many students cannot afford private lessons, the directors had an anonymous donor fund 21 instructors coming to the school on 1/10/25. They gave 120 lessons that day. 84 all staters were there. It was very successful!
- They had another individual who wanted to support in the future.
- Recital night is 1/14/25.
- Solo and Ensemble contest is 2/4/25.
- All State Auditions are 1/16-1/18. We have 114 students auditioning.
- Jazz season is underway. Gig at Ode to Food and Drink on 1/21 from 5-8 pm. The combo will play. 15% of proceeds go to the band. Gig at Trio for the combo on 2/18.
- Jazz bands will compete at Morningside, Augustana, SDSU, Waukee.
- 1/27 is the Winter Band Concert. Get there early. 6:50 the percussion ensemble will start.
- Our show designers retired. New team : Julie will be concept coordinator and design body work. Scott Dupree will do the wind book. Evan Blackard will do percussion and sound. The cost was \$31,000 last year. It will be \$45,000 this year.
- Spat camp starts July 24.
- New member day is July 23.
- Show schedule - BOA Iowa moved to FOB weekend. Will not be going to BOA Iowa this year. 1) Omaha 2) Blue Springs, MO. 3)FOB. 4)YIM. 5)BOA St. Louis
- We sold one of the cones for \$2500.
- Open enrollment concern because Lincoln is over capacity. The band program is made up of 40% open enrollment. Mr. C met with Jamie Nold, superintendent. We don't know anything yet. 72 freshman students applied to open enroll to Lincoln next year. 21 were band kids. Will find out on 1/15/25.
- Thank you for the director appreciation gift.
- Sierra is really going after guard related things.
- Will look at indoor winter drum line for next year.

ISA Treasurer Report by Sonia Ohling

- Non payment for Macy's - 1.27%
- Non payment for 2024 marching season - 12%
- Fall guard - \$596 outstanding
- Chaperone - \$102 outstanding
- Winter guard - \$2452 outstanding

Financial Aid - none

Meeting adjourned at 5:21

Respectfully submitted, Rachelle Broveleit

President's Report January 2025

We made it. We all made it. We made it through 2024. It was unprecedented, extraordinary, intense, massive, stressful, refining, amazing, and life changing. To think where we were just one year ago, handing out Macy's stocking hats and Culver's certificates, not having any idea what was in store for the next 11 months, to now, 12 months later.

It has not been an easy year, but it has been one none of us will ever forget. We worked together on more things than we ever knew would be possible. We planned, prepared, executed, tracked, distributed, deposited, and credited four major fundraisers we had never done before. We had no work shifts a year ago, but we ended up with so many we couldn't fill them all, and these were keenly instrumental to the incredible ISA payment percentage. We ran with the car raffle success from the year before. We wrote grants. We talked to more businesses and donors than any of us thought possible.

We implemented separation of duties in our financial management to promote accountability and transparency with all monies handled. We reconciled our bank accounts and have kept them reconciled, we updated our financial tracking from Excel to QuickBooks and watch budget-to-actuals now, and we opened a money market account to grow our funds at a significantly faster rate. We set payment due dates and prioritized the different program activities' ISA payments. We gently but effectively communicate with seniors to decrease their outstanding ISA balances to an all-time low.

We filled all but one volunteer leadership position in the BPA structure and had incredible contributions from everyone. You all impressed me more than you know and made me very proud and honored to serve with you. We increased attendance and participation in monthly meetings, and included the meeting schedule on emails and the Google Calendar to make them more known to all parents/guardians.

We brought 8th graders in six months earlier than usual to ensure they had enough time and opportunity to fundraise and pay for their incredible freshman year. We changed from Charms software to CutTime in the middle of this massive year of fundraising and ISA tracking. We handled new uniforms two weeks prior to leaving for New York. We canceled our PayPal because Zeffy has and continues to save us thousands of dollars in fees. We took the Silent Auction to an online platform to increase participation and lessen volunteer hours.

An aggressive, massive budget was set in April. I am very optimistic and very much have a can-do attitude when it comes to putting in the work to making something happen. Last year had to happen like it did, with intentional, unrelenting leadership, looking at the "forest," the big picture, looking outside the box, and leaving no stone unturned, with every effort to think of and include every student and their family, every staff, every volunteer, and every alumnus. It also required equal effort in the "doer" realm, being connected to each moving part of this machine; being involved in the care and growth of the trees...and the bushes and the squirrels. 😊 2024 required massive logistical skills, efficient time management, and timely and effective

communication. The budgeted income was met at the end of September – nine months from Macy’s sign-up.

The trip to New York was, as it’s been called, a trip of a lifetime. Every chaperone and staff have stories of how the students’ reactions and comments made the trip meaningful and unforgettable. There were challenges along the way, including stress of the unknown, working as volunteers with jobs and families with multiple kids in multiple activities, and other outside commitments. We continue to learn how to best communicate with each other for the most effective outcomes.

The BPA will be looking forward to future strategic planning to support our mission: to support all activities of the band program at Lincoln High School to include educational trips, exchange programs, competitions, concerts, provide chaperoning, support fundraising efforts and promote the Lincoln High School bands throughout the year. We will be especially looking to provide this non-profit organization with financial health and volunteer structure and clarification as it has needed to grow with the band program’s desires and needs while in the current economy. Despite the challenges, we continue to work together for maximum program impact for the students. Our financial health, our cohesiveness, and student and family testimonials speak volumes that we can count 2024 as a massive win all around.

A 2024 survey of parents has been completed with mostly positive comments, but as it is working with over 500 people, not everyone can be pleased 100% of the time. We consider each comment, striving to improve as we all move forward.

Thank you starts with the students. You are what motivates us to do all we do. Thank you for your reaction to the Broadway show. Thank you for taking care of each other not just in New York, but every day. You consider each other, include each other, and persevere through the hot and cold times. Thank you to the band directors for your work with our kids. You are the best around, and we appreciate all you do. Thank you to the staff for working with our kids. You too, are the best around and are appreciated more than you know. Thank you to every volunteer this year. This organization, being made up of volunteers, could not exist without you. Thank you to the band families for getting on this incredible ship that is the Lincoln Band.

In the weeks and months to come on this continued journey of supporting the Lincoln Band Program, we will be working on volunteer position descriptions, policies and procedures, taking nominations for the 2024-25 BPA Board and Committees, and setting the 2024-25 BPA Budget. We’re looking to the future of the BPA being healthy, strong, and organized to provide the kids and the program the best we can.

Respectfully,

Elli

Elli Nyberg
BPA President